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HOUSE BILL 344

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Ray Begaye

AN ACT

RELATING TO NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION; DIRECTING THE PUBLIC
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO GATHER AND REPORT CERTAIN STATISTICS ON
NEW MEXICO'S NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of the Public School Code is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] GATHERING OF NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT
STATISTICS REQUIRED.--

A. The department shall by rule provide for
gathering and compiling information on Native American students
in public schools and reporting the data through the
accountability data system in operation by the department. The
following information shall be gathered on the fortieth, the
eightieth and the one hundred twentieth days as well as on

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1 December 1 and at the end of the year:

2 (1) the numbers of Native American students in
3 attendance;

4 (2) of those Native American students in the
5 third grade, their English reading percentile scores;

6 (3) the number of Native American students who
7 have transferred to a school since the beginning of the school
8 year;

9 (4) the number of Native American students who
10 have withdrawn from enrollment without re-enrolling in another
11 school in the district or requesting that their school records
12 be forwarded to another school;

13 (5) the number of Native American students who
14 live in a single-parent household;

15 (6) the number of Native American students
16 identified for special education;

17 (7) the number of Native American students
18 identified for special education in the previous school year;

19 (8) the number of Native American students
20 qualified for the federal free or reduced fee school lunch
21 program; and

22 (9) the number of suicides of Native American
23 students, even if the suicide occurs off-campus.

24 B. For the purposes of this section a Native
25 American student is a student who:

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1 (1) has been identified as Native American on
2 school enrollment forms;

3 (2) has not graduated from high school;

4 (3) is regularly enrolled in one-half or more
5 of the minimum course requirements approved by the department
6 for public school students; and

7 (4) is at least five years of age prior to
8 12:01 a.m. on September 1 of the school year or, if receiving
9 special education services, is at least three years of age at
10 any time during the school year and is less than twenty-two
11 years of age on the first day of the school year."

12 Section 2. A new section of the Public School Code is
13 enacted to read:

14 "[NEW MATERIAL] REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE INDIAN AFFAIRS
15 COMMITTEE REQUIRED.--The secretary shall report annually to the
16 legislative Indian affairs committee at its October meeting or
17 its next meeting thereafter, summarizing the statistics
18 gathered pursuant to Section 1 of this act and discussing their
19 implications. In addition, the secretary shall issue an annual
20 report summarizing the statistics and distribute the report to
21 the Navajo Nation Indian education department and to all school
22 districts where Native Americans comprise thirty percent or
23 more of the student population."